

**White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation
Day 2 Breakout Session Compilation**

Topic: Expanding the Role of Tribes, States and Communities in Cooperative Conservation

Session number: 46

Afternoon

Facilitator: Christine Carlson

Location: 130

A. Major Repeated Themes Raised in the Discussion. *A grouping of ideas repeated with some frequency in the session and brought up again during the group summation process. Also includes diverging views and/or questions about the topic.*

- We want innovative, collaborative relationships built on trust, respect, and understanding with authority to act. Make sure there is a common vision, clear objectives, strategic, and priorities are set.
- Agencies, tribes, local agencies just don't have the capacity to conduct collaborative projects. There is a shortage of staff and funding to support these efforts. We talk a lot about collaboration, but funding for capacity will require a change in values among those people who allocate resources.
- Technology is helping somewhat through email, conferencing, and posting of reports.
- Successful partnerships have an advocate to move collaborative projects forward.
- Local councils are a very good thing for input, trust, (e.g., state technical committee, NRCS, tribal advisory councils).
- National relationships deployed locally leverage dollars, and agencies bring credibility for fundraising efforts
- Education is key. We're developing the next set of collaborators, mentoring them and education will help with sustainability of collaboration efforts.
- Integrated and long-term planning is key overall. For example, tribes look ahead in distance up to seven generations.
- Acquire funding by setting aside a certain portion of budgets, using supplemental environmental projects to add funds to collaboration, and/or using tax credits.
- Incentivize collaboration within agency, between agencies, and with private sector. Establish measurable goals for collaboration efforts.
- There is a strong recognition that collaboration takes more time and energy, and requires funding that to make it happen.
- We need to celebrate successes and hold people up as leaders today, rather than just citing leaders from the past.

B. National-level Practical Actions *that could be taken by the Federal government, national NGO's, and other national organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

- Training is needed in how to collaborate and deal with conflict, because conflict often stops collaboration.
- Need to develop and use good models and best practices of what has worked.
- Find the market-based business incentives, avoid more regulations
- Encourage and reward employees who are able to collaborate and solve conservation problems.

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- All levels of government need to make employee resources available.
- Establish ways for regular contact between levels of government and with other organizations. This personalizes the federal government in the eyes of the public and other agencies.
- State/federal employees are often the ones who can provide technical expertise regarding conservation.
- Increase private sector activities in support of conservation efforts.
- The President of the U.S., the more he stands publicly behind conservation and is perceived to really be upholding that trust, interest in conservation will increase.
- NEPA/FACA may be seen as impediments because Federal government isn't doing a good job of implementing them. Need to do a better job of implementing NEPA and FACA.

C. **Local-level Practical Actions** *that could be taken at the local or community level by Tribes, state and local communities, private citizens, and local organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

- Integrated planning is essential; it's the first step. Planning should be longer range and more inclusive. It should identify organizations' needs, and see where there are intersections and common interests. This allows clear objectives to be developed and priorities set.

D. **Particularly insightful quotes from participants** that capture the essence of key points made during the group's discussion.

- "I would like 1% or less than 1% of federal funds to go to collaborative projects." (~\$1B)
- "It's all about relationships, and it's like a marriage – you have to go along to get along."
- "Not one size fits all."
- "Mentor the next generation of collaborators."

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**White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation
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Topic: Expanding the Role of Tribes, States and Communities in Cooperative Conservation

Session number: 46

afternoon

Facilitator: Greg Wolf

Location: 131

- A. Major Repeated Themes Raised in the Discussion.** *A grouping of ideas repeated with some frequency in the session and brought up again during the group summation process. Also includes diverging views and/or questions about the topic.*

Emphasize spending funds on conservation actions rather than Education theme-
educate kids, public, new partners, corporations on conservation issues and building partnerships
Review authorities and make sure they support coop conservation on the ground
,knowledge
Diversity-increase workforce and partners and constituents
Understanding partnerships- training fed and state employees
Need to communicate is major theme
Project based focus is a good way to integrate work and build partnerships
Conservation on the ground is most important
Tie coop conservation to urban and rural development
More volunteers and friends groups
Funding systems support collaborative conservation

- B. National-level Practical Actions** *that could be taken by the Federal government, national NGO's, and other national organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

Transition issues-need overlap due to possible loss of expertise- feds need transition strategy to ensure continuity for coop conservation collaborations
Review policies to ensure they support collaborative conservation
Revise procurement/contracting policies to ensure they support collaborative conservation
Tie education needs to no child left behind
Training needed that is mentor driven, project focused
Revise budget process to reflect responsiveness needed for collaborative conservation
Expand the funding pie-need dedicated funds and tools for coop conservation
Train agency folks to understand tribal issues and culture
Develop financial mechanisms that allow for pooling of partner funds from various sectors- fed, state, local, tribes, ngos
Improve data integration through a common database on issue basis or on geographic basis
– all sectors enter their data into common system – collaborative groups set data needs
FACA rules are a constraint to collaboration – review FACA to recommend changes to promote collaborative conservation
Provide mechanisms for place based governance and project focused funding

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connect research to on the ground needs

C. Local-level Practical Actions *that could be taken at the local or community level by Tribes, state and local communities, private citizens, and local organizations.*

Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.

Encourage kids to be involved in local projects for empowerment and education

Look for broad based education and outreach efforts- spend time applying coop conservation in classroom with kids-one hour per week

Develop financial mechanisms that allow for pooling of partner funds from various sectors- fed, state, local, tribes, ngos

Improve data integration through a common database on issue basis or on geographic basis – all sectors enter their data into common system – collaborative groups set data needs

D. Particularly insightful quotes from participants that capture the essence of key points made during the group's discussion.

NEPA should be used as intended not as it is currently implemented (NEPA supports local collaboration and integration of envtl., social and economic factors)

Educating children about cooperative conservation is fundamental to future .

Workforce needs to reflect who is being served

We are in data hell, we need to improve data integration, coordination between agencies

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Afternoon

Facilitator: Nadine Tafoya

Location: 230

A. Major Repeated Themes Raised in the Discussion. *A grouping of ideas repeated with some frequency in the session and brought up again during the group summation process. Also includes diverging views and/or questions about the topic.*

- Both voluntary incentives and regulatory enforcement are both needed to accomplish conservation goals - it's not either/or
- Need a national conservation ethic that would motivate collaboration across diverse backgrounds
- A sustainable conservation ethic must be inter-generational
- Need for resources (not just money) to facilitate collaboration
- Effective conservation must be "ground up"
- Facilitate community stewardship of resources – manage our own neighborhoods
- Important to energize the public so they understand their roles and responsibilities in their government structure
- Energize citizens to be active participants in cooperative conservation
- Each tribe is unique with its own procedures/timelines – other parties should learn how to work with them
- Need for political will, funding and leadership champions for change must exist at all levels to implement existing environmental laws in a way that engages all communities
- Language is critical – should be transparent, truthful, and not divisive

B. National-level Practical Actions *that could be taken by the Federal government, national NGO's, and other national organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

- Federal government should adopt training and rewards system to encourage collaborative activities
- Adopt federal standards and guidelines for effective collaboration
- Model collaboration at the Secretarial level, including in implementing the outcomes from this conference (i.e., by including states, tribes and others on the task force announced by Secretary Norton)
- Create a mechanism for any person to share idea/concerns and get them to be considered (e.g., a website)

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C. Local-level Practical Actions *that could be taken at the local or community level by Tribes, state and local communities, private citizens, and local organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

- Build community capacity to participate in collaborative efforts
- Engage in multi-party monitoring of effectiveness of collaboration and use the results to be more effective the next time
- Better coordination of overlapping projects to avoid duplication of effort
- Involve youth more
- Every citizen can't be involved in every issue; so need to ensure good communication and keep those who aren't directly involved informed.

D. Particularly insightful quotes from participants that capture the essence of key points made during the group's discussion.

"Putting nature back into cooperative conservation."

"formal integration of youth at our table to be developed as leaders of the future, but as participants now."

"Character needs to be modeled and encouraged in collaborative processes."

"Federal govt. has a role in establishing goals and encouraging and empowering local people to meet that goal."

"We need activated communities and not just community activists."

"In America we want our environmental decisions to be made by local communities on the ground and not in the courts."

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